

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 6, 2004, claims 29, 38 and 45 are amended. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9-22, 29, 34, 35, 37-40 and 45 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

Claim 5 is amended to change "generate" to "generated".

The indication that claims 9-22 and 37 are allowable is acknowledged and appreciated.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

I. Claims 2, 5, 29, 38-40 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,318), for the reasons substantially of record.

To expedite prosecution, independent claims 29 and 45 are amended to delineate:

generating a plurality of lines along a surface of the three-dimensional form model *by projecting horizontal lines encircling the three-dimensional form model with leaving a space to the three-dimensional form model and vertical lines intersecting the horizontal lines to the three-dimensional form model*, the plurality of generated lines corresponding exactly to contours of the three-dimensional form model...

In addition, claim 38 is amended to delineate:

generating a second electronic data that represents a first set of uncrossed lines corresponding exactly to first portions on a surface of the three-dimensional model, *said second electronic data being generated by projecting horizontal lines encircling the three-dimensional model with leaving a space to the three-dimensional model and vertical lines intersecting the horizontal lines to the three-dimensional model*, wherein a capacity of the second electronic data is smaller than that of the first electronic data...

The Examiner should be aware that a line includes any length that is straight or curved. The above added recitations are not disclosed or suggested in Matsuura. As the added limitations are already recited in allowable claims 9, 13, 17, 21, 22 and 37, they do not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

In view of the above, amended independent claims 29, 38 and 45 are believed to be patentable over Matsuura, as are dependent claim 2, 5, 39 and 40. Consequently, the allowance of claims 2, 5, 29, 38-40 and 45 is respectfully solicited.

II. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,318) in view of Letcher, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,949).

However, claim 3 depends from amended claim 29 via claim 2. Therefore, claim 3 is believed to be patentable over Matsuura also, even when considered in view of Letcher, Jr., and its allowance is respectfully solicited.

III. Claims 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuura (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,318) in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,754,680).

However, claims 34 and 35 each depend from amended claim 29. Therefore, claims 34 and 35 are believed to be patentable over Matsuura also, even when considered in view of Letcher, Jr., and their allowance is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Entry of the amendment and favorable

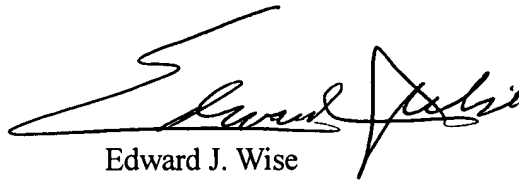
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reconsideration of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Wise", is written over a horizontal line.

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